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Friday
NOVEMBER 15, 2013

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

MAGIC MARTELLUS

Athlete or artist? Fashionista or family man?
With Bennett, it's all of the above *pages 10-11*



REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

Hands off our deep dish! **4**

Ventra's gonna pay for this **6**

What's in a band name? **36**

BY JULIA BORCHERTS FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

DRINK

BEARS VIEWING PARTY Taco Joint

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Tailgate indoors with \$3 cans of Tecate and Modelo Especial and half-price pitchers of Zocalo margaritas (regularly \$30) and tropical margaritas (regularly \$34) as you watch the Monsters of the Midway take on the Baltimore Ravens (noon) on large TV screens. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. No cover.

PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS COMMUNITY NIGHT Marty's Martini Bar

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Pride Films and Plays closes out its Gay Film Weekend with a reception honoring the contest winner where you can mingle with the writers, casts and creative teams over \$14 cosmopolitan and manhattan cocktails. 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday. No cover. Schedule: pridefilmsandplays.com.



DO

DECK THE HALLS Vertical Gallery

1016 N. Western Ave. 773-697-3846

Browse 80 works—all on skateboard decks—by more than 50 artists at the opening of this group show co-curated with Uprise Skate Shop where partial proceeds benefit Chicago non-profit The Simple Good. 6-10 p.m. Saturday. No cover.



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EAT

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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Listen in to WGN's RedEye Remix radio show midnight-2 a.m. Saturday night: wgnradio.com.



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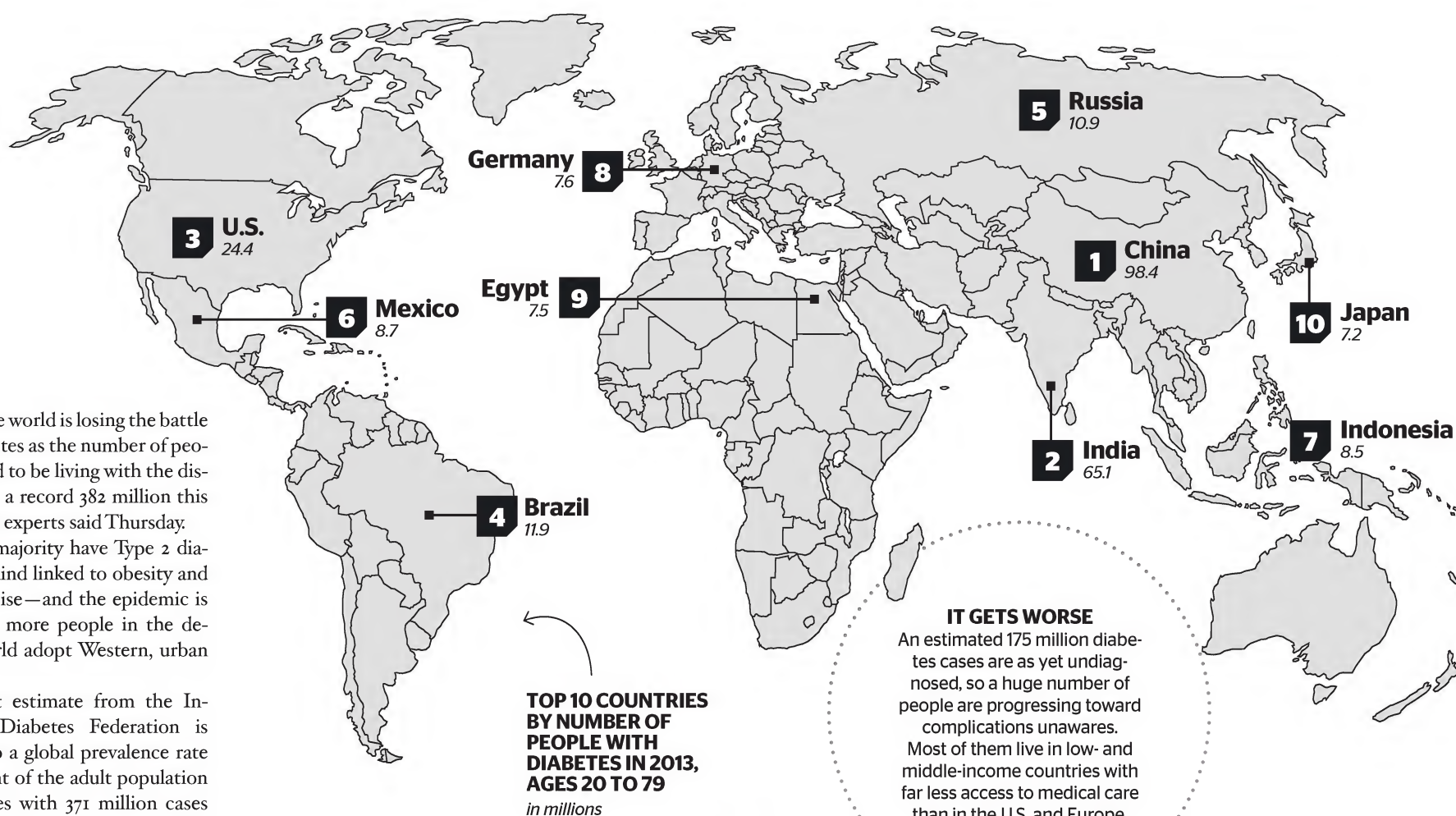
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Reuters

LONDON The world is losing the battle against diabetes as the number of people estimated to be living with the disease soars to a record 382 million this year, medical experts said Thursday.

The vast majority have Type 2 diabetes—the kind linked to obesity and lack of exercise—and the epidemic is spreading as more people in the developing world adopt Western, urban lifestyles.

The latest estimate from the International Diabetes Federation is equivalent to a global prevalence rate of 8.4 percent of the adult population and compares with 371 million cases in 2012.

By 2035, the organization predicts the number of cases will have soared by 55 percent to 592 million.

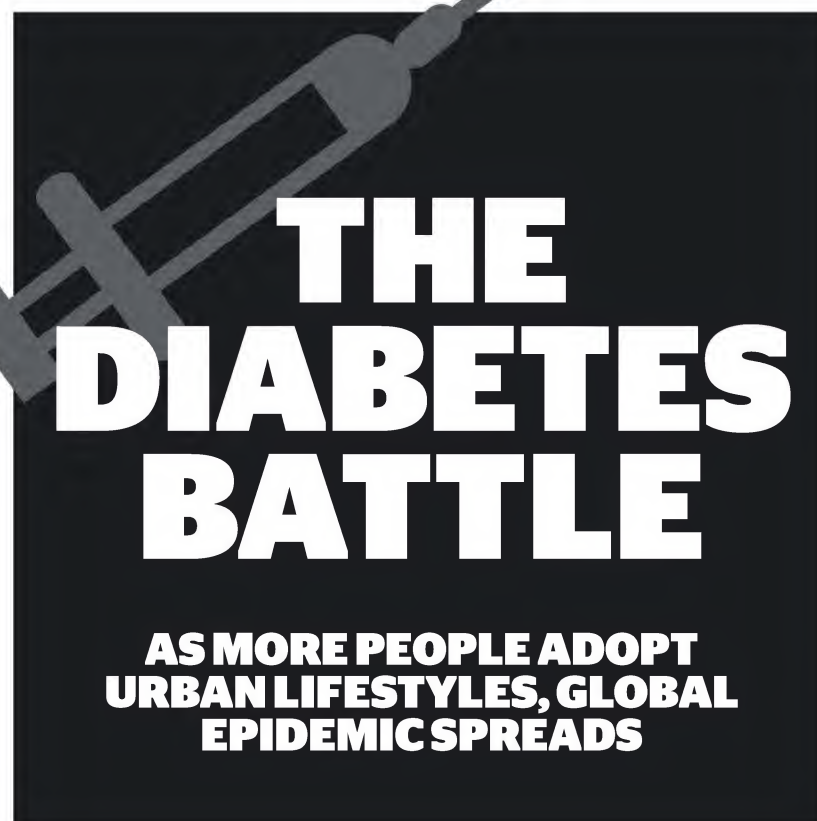
“The battle to protect people from diabetes and its disabling, life-threatening complications is being lost,” the federation said in the sixth edition of its Diabetes Atlas, noting that deaths from the disease were now running at 5.1 million a year or one every 6 seconds.

People with diabetes have inadequate blood sugar control, which can lead to a range of dangerous complications, including damage to the eyes, kidneys and heart. If left untreated, it can result in premature death.

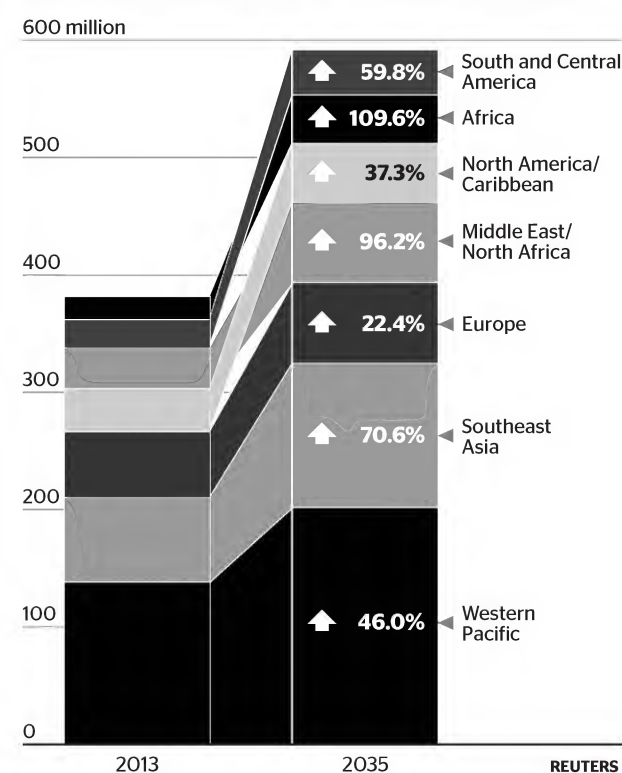
“Year after year, the figures seem to be getting worse,” said David Whiting, an epidemiologist and public health specialist at the federation. “All around the world we are seeing increasing numbers of people developing diabetes.”

He said that a strategy involving all parts of society is needed to improve diets and promote healthier lifestyles.

The federation calculates that diabetes already accounts for annual health care spending of \$548 billion and this is likely to rise to \$627 billion by 2035.



Current and projected cases of diabetes by region



Beliebers are losing the faith



Lela Olds

redeye@tribune.com
@literallylela

Parties. Sex. Drugs. Alcohol. It's a never-ending cycle in the music business. One by one, artists fall victim to the pressures of the industry. The latest victim (if you believe the mounting evidence in the tabloids): none other than former Canadian teen heartthrob-turned-fake Calabasas bad boy **Justin Bieber**.

The swaggy bro just keeps outdoing himself. Lately, you cannot go a day without reading about an incident involving his crazy antics. One day, he's spotted at a brothel in Brazil. The next, he's filmed sleeping after a wild night with a model or spotted on Instagram displaying his birdlike chest.

This behavior would seem normal for a rock 'n' roll star like Steven Tyler or a rapper like Lil Wayne (no judgment and no shade—just observation). Sure, many of us threw a major side-eye at the TV in May 2012 as we watched Bieber escort Floyd Mayweather to the boxing ring while carrying his championship belts. But who knew he was on his way to becoming an artificial bad boy? He has done a complete 180 and turned into the blue-eyed pop soul version of Chris Brown.

Both artists started out as teen sensations set to take over the music industry with a legion of die-hard fans. Both have made amazing music, sold out arenas and won numerous awards. Both had very public relationships and messy breakups with famous stars. (Obviously, Brown made a horrible mistake and has been on a steady decline in his personal life ever since.)

Due to bad management and PR, Brown never took a break from the spotlight and sought the help that he needed until very recently. I never thought I would say anyone should follow Chris Brown's lead, but Bieber needs to take a page out of his book and get help before it's too late.

With an artist like Miley Cyrus, it's clear



that she acts out as a way to shed her Disney image. She's fully aware that her actions are deplorable and ridiculous. Yet with Justin Bieber, he appears to be truly experiencing a clichéd life in the music industry and he is on a downward spiral headed to destruction.

Justin Bieber should and could be the next Justin Timberlake. ... OK, that may be a stretch, but you get the point. He's a talented individual, but he's letting his erratic behavior overshadow his talent.

True music fans would just like to hear great music. You can keep the extra nonsense. Before things take a turn for the absolute worst, he needs to relax, relate, release and regroup. The industry has enough troublemakers and bad boys. Someone like Bieber doesn't need to follow the trend.

He instead needs to get on that midnight train to Stratford, Ontario, take a good six months or more to spend time with family and get his life together. Then he can resurface better than ever in 2014 to give us more songs like "All Bad"—because we can never have enough Taylor Swift diss songs.

LELA OLDS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

TWEET HOME CHICAGO



"Hey, @TheDailyShow 'If properly dried & trimmed, NY-style pizza could be used to make a box for Chicago-style pizza'—@nick_offerman" —@GinosEast

That's just one of the tweets that went out after "The Daily Show" made things personal Wednesday night.

In a segment about the height of the Willis Tower and One World Trade Center, Stewart knocked one of Chicago's points of pride: deep dish.

Stewart spent a few minutes ripping the city's famous pie, calling it "a casserole" and "tomato soup in a bread bowl" and saying it's a surprise it doesn't come topped with onion rings.

He also seemed miffed at Mayor Emanuel's comments suggesting Freedom Tower was only taller because of its antenna.

This week, the Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat ruled that the Willis was beat out by New York's tower because the structure it is topped with is a "spire" and not an antenna.

Things escalated Thursday when the mayor tweeted from @chicagomayorsoffice that he had sent some deep dish to Stewart's show. @thedailyshow responded with a Vine clip of a dog sniffing and rejecting a pie.

MICK SWASKO, REDEYE



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 O RLY?

FYI

Foreclosure filings in the Chicago area rose 30 percent in October from a month earlier, RealtyTrac reported.

VENTRA OUTAGE MYSTERY

CTA PLANS TO BILL CONTRACTOR UP TO \$33,750 FOR GLITCH

Chicago Tribune

The CTA and its Ventra contractor said Thursday they still could not trace the source of a widespread computer problem during the previous evening's rush period that knocked out 165 Ventra fare card readers at 60 rail stations, although no new malfunctions were reported.

The mysterious hardware or software problems Wednesday evening, which the CTA attributed to a "Ventra back-office server," resulted in an estimated 15,000 free rides for customers who were waved through the gates after showing station attendants their Ventra cards, the transit agency said.

The disruption did not affect fare collection on CTA Chicago Cards or CTA magnetic stripe cards, the CTA said. Customers using those fare cards were required to pay to ride, CTA spokeswoman Tammy Chase said.

CTA officials emphatically said the agency will bill the Ventra contractor, Cubic Transportation Systems, for the lost fare revenue. The tab would be up to \$33,750, assuming all rides were based on the \$2.25 full fare.

"Each of those 15,000 free rides was the result of Cubic error," Chase said.

"The vendor is still determining the cause of the server failure," Chase added. The outage, which caused Ventra fare readers to be out of service for 15 minutes to about an hour, was fixed by rebooting the system, Chase said.

Late Thursday, a new Ventra problem



A commuter uses a Ventra card at the CTA Blue Line Logan Square station on Thursday. JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

emerged in connection with the commuter benefits program, which offers tax advantages to employers and their employees to pay for transit fares using pretax income. Thursday's debut of the Ventra commuter benefits website included instances of employees being associated with the wrong employers, several company administrators told the Tribune.

CTA'S DEMANDS

CTA President Forrest Claypool said the CTA hasn't paid Cubic any money on the \$454 million contract signed in late 2011 for the company to build and manage the new fare-payment system. He said the CTA won't write a check until three conditions are met: wait times on Ventra's customer hotline are less than five minutes to speak with an operator; Ventra fare readers on buses and at rail turnstiles process transactions in 2.5 seconds or less, 99 percent of the time; and 99 percent of Ventra equipment is functioning.

THE DIGIT 1,000- 1,500

That's the estimated number of people who showed up at Park West Theatre on Thursday for an open audition for two lead roles in "Star Wars: Episode VII."



JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

EXPRESS LINES

- In what is likely a first for the University of Illinois, school trustees decided Thursday to revoke the tenure of a longtime faculty member who had a history of clashing with the administration.
- A 20-year-old gang member with an AK-47 tattooed between his eyes was ordered held on \$1 million bail for a shooting in August near an

Uptown church that killed one and injured four others.

- YouTube co-founder Steve Chen has made a \$1 million gift to his alma mater, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora, to help build a new \$1.9 million "Innovation Hub" modeled partially after the 1871 startup collaborative workspace at the Merchandise Mart. **TRIBUNE**



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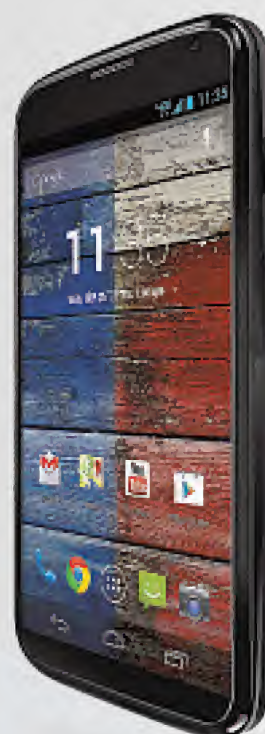
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IFIVE



Boston mobster gets life in prison

1 **BOSTON** Bringing an end to Boston's longest-running crime saga, a federal judge on Thursday sentenced former mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger to spend the rest of his life in prison, calling his crimes "almost unfathomable."

Bulger, 84, sat stoically as U.S. District Judge Denise Casper recounted the crimes he was convicted of, including 11 murders, extortion and drug dealing while he ran Boston's brutal Winter Hill crime gang in the 1970s and '80s.

"The scope, the callousness, the depravity of your crimes are almost unfathomable," Casper said before imposing two consecutive life sentences plus five years.

Bulger terrorized the city for decades before fleeing in late 1994 on a tip that his arrest was imminent, and he spent 16 years on the lam.

His life inspired Martin Scorsese's 2016 Academy Award-winning film "The Departed."

"The testimony of human suffering that you and your associates inflicted on others was at times agonizing to hear and painful to watch," Casper told Bulger.



President Obama speaks about the economy during a visit to ArcelorMittal steel mill in Cleveland on Thursday. REUTERS

Obama on health site: My bad

2 **WASHINGTON** President Obama offered a fix to his troubled health care law Thursday that would allow insurance companies to extend for one year the health plans of Americans that would otherwise face cancellation.

Struggling to convince Americans he is on top of the growing crisis around the Affordable Care Act, Obama disclosed that he was not informed directly that the glitch-prone website might not work the way it was supposed to work when enrollment began on Oct. 1.

He declined to say that all problems with

the website would be ironed out by a Nov. 30 deadline but said there would the improvements would be "marked and noticeable."

In remarks in the White House briefing room, Obama said he has not been happy about the health care law's rollout and that he understands Americans' frustration with it.

To those Americans who have already had their health plans canceled and complained about it, "I hear you loud and clear," he said.

In a message to congressional Republicans who are pushing an alternative to his health care plan, Obama said he would not accept "brazen" legislative attempts to undermine

the law.

Asked if the public's trust in government was being lost because of the rollout problems, Obama said: "No doubt that people are frustrated."

"This one is deserved, it's on us," he said.

Obama said he would work hard to win back the public's confidence in his leadership.

Obama had promised repeatedly that Americans who liked their health insurance could keep it when the Affordable Care Act took effect Oct. 1. But several million people have received cancellation notices.

U.S. aid arrives in Philippines

3 With pressure mounting to speed up the distribution of aid to victims of Typhoon Haiyan, the U.S. aircraft carrier George Washington and its strike group arrived Thursday in the Philippines, and officials said relief flights could take place around the clock at two airports.

Mayor to seek help for drinking

4 Embattled Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, under huge pressure to quit after he admitted smoking crack cocaine, said Thursday he was getting help for a drinking problem, but offered no indication that he might step down.

Pope makes Italian mafia 'nervous'

5 Pope Francis' campaign against corruption in the Catholic Church has made Italy's most dangerous mafia organization "nervous," which could make the prelate a target, a leading Italian prosecutor warned Thursday. The pope's vow to clean up church finances threatens the crime family's money laundering and investment strategy, the prosecutor said.

Police shoot armed man at hospital

6 Police shot and wounded a man armed with a handgun in the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin on Thursday as he fled officers who were seeking to arrest him, sparking a lockdown at the hospital, Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke said. The man was taken into custody.



THE DIGIT

10 That's how many fake Obamacare websites the state of California has shut down amid concerns about fraud, the state's attorney general said Thursday.



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2013 Regular Season • Week 11

BEARS

VS. BALTIMORE, NOON SUNDAY, FOX

The Talented Mr. Bennett

Seriously, is there anything the Bears tight end can't do?

By **Leonor Vivanco** | REDEYE

Like a stylish mad scientist, Martellus Bennett tinkers in his laboratory.

It's away from football and in the basement of his suburban home where his creative mind flourishes. It's where the self-proclaimed "visionary architect" paints, doodles and dabbles in so many ventures that it's a struggle to keep up.

At age 26, Bennett is unlike any athlete in Chicago. The gregarious and eccentric tight end is deep into his first season with the Bears as Baltimore heads to Soldier Field on Sunday. He has made quite an impression since being lured from the N.Y. Giants with a reported four-year, \$20.4 million deal.

Drawing attention comes naturally for Bennett. He's a quote machine, having likened coach Marc Trestman to Willy Wonka as a nod to his intelligence and compared himself and his wife to celebrity power couple Jay Z and Beyonce.

His personality hasn't changed much since he was

14, said tight end Fendi Onobun, who grew up with Bennett in Houston and is on the Bears practice squad.

"He's always been outgoing," Onobun said. "He's always been an individual who just can attract attention. He's funny, he's witty, that's just him. There's really no word to really describe his personality."

Away from the field, Bennett clutches a sketchpad as effortlessly as he cradles a football. He's as comfortable wearing Louis Vuitton designer kicks as he is in cleats. He tweets daily and floods his Instagram account with GQ-esque style photos.

Even though he has a few years left on his contract, he is plotting his next move.

"For me, life after football, all I really want to do is just create stuff and make stuff," Bennett said.

"It just gives me balance because football is so structured all the time and you have a routine and a certain way to do things. So when you create things, you can do it any way you want to do it. If I was just all football all the time, I'd go crazy. If I was just all art all the time, I'd go crazy as well."

LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM | @LVIVANCO



Martellus Bennett
GETTY IMAGES FILE



Martellus Bennett (right) and his wife, Siggi
GETTY IMAGES FILE

MR. EVERYTHING

Playing football is how Martellus Bennett earns a living. But he's much more than a pass catcher and blocker. He's a joker and a jack of all trades.

FAMILY GUY

Pssst. Bennett and his wife, Siggi, are expecting a girl in March. The man known as **@MartysaurusRex** on Twitter refers to their unborn child as Minisaurus Rex.

In his spare time, Bennett has started a collection with monster and dinosaur books while baby-proofing his home.

"I want to be a lot like my dad was," he said. "Basically I want to help her grow, help her blossom. I want to be the gardener in her life until her petals are big enough where she starts having her own flower bed."

He can come off as so playful that one can see how easily he would get along with kids. He often poses with his nieces on Instagram and says Matt Forte's daughter smiles at him.

"He's still a child at heart and that's one of the qualities I love about him so much," Siggi Bennett said. "I think what he's going to bring to parenting involving that [passion for art] is going to be awesome, and our kid is going to be the most eclectic, weird, imaginative, creative child that was probably ever born."

THE STARTING LINE

» Bulls at Toronto, 6 p.m. WCIU

» Wolves at Milwaukee, 7 p.m. WCIU2

» Derrick Rose sits out Thursday practice, will be game-time decision for Friday's game



Balenciaga leather sneakers



Kanye West x Louis Vuitton sneaker



Kanye West x Louis Vuitton sneaker

FASHIONISTA

Consider Bennett a style maven.

Before moving to Chicago, he said he donated 400 pairs of sneakers to charity. That cleared room for his new collection of designer shoes. So far he's got about 25 pairs and counts Louis Vuitton and Balenciaga among them.

Bennett delved more into fashion after living in New York City. He's sketched designs and even interned for a day at Young & Reckless clothing company.

"I just like to look good, honestly," he said. "What happened was when I started feeling like, 'Man, I'm spending a lot of money buying clothes,' why don't I just make what I want to wear?"

ARTIST

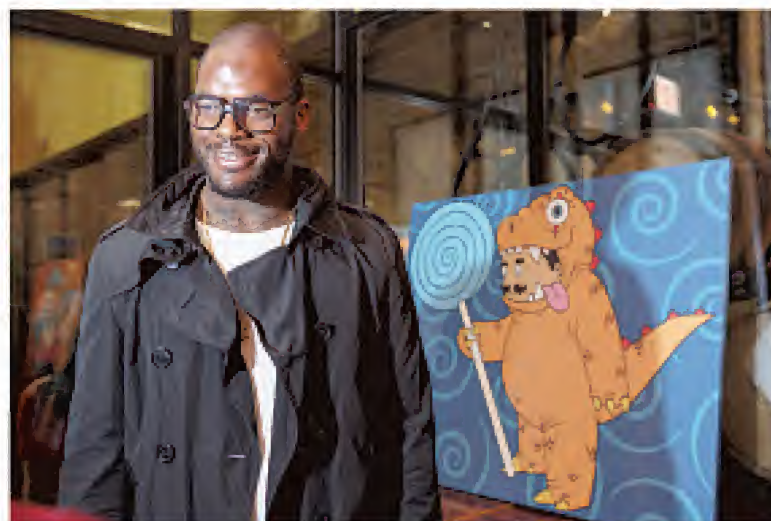
If Bennett were not a football player, he'd beg Pixar or DreamWorks for a job.

He's already got the storyline in mind. He shared his vision last month during an art show at City Winery in the West Loop where he introduced McGuire, a character named after his agent, in the fictional Dinosaurland theme park. He's been developing the characters, personality and art work for two years.

The Bennett home is something of an art gallery, and so is his body. He has 287 tattoos, and most are designs he sketched. He still wants more, perhaps a leg sleeve or on his ribs where he still has space.

When his football gloves are off, more ink is visible. "Failure" is tattooed on his left hand and "success" on his right hand because he considers success to be the right option in life.

He's no stranger to the mic, either. Bennett has a hip-hop album with his younger brother



Bennett shows off his art at City Winery in October. LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

called "Fast Food" on iTunes, and there's also his now-famous "I Love Cap'n Crunch" video.

He tweeted last month that his next album will be titled "Dinosaurs and Dinomite," out next summer.

"I might take the Will Smith

approach now and not curse anymore," said Bennett, who played trombone, trumpet and clarinet as a kid. He did get in trouble and was reportedly fined \$22,000 by the Cowboys in 2009 for posting a rap video with derogatory language to YouTube.

ATHLETE

With 40 catches, 421 yards and four touchdowns so far this season, the 6-foot-6 Bennett is approaching the career highs he posted in New York in 2012.

Big plays definitely are part of his repertoire, like his acrobatic, game-winning touchdown grab against Minnesota in Week 2.

"He can lock down a defensive end. He's great at run blocking. Then you see him run routes and you're like, man, we've got to throw him the ball," quarterback Jay Cutler said.

Against New Orleans in Week 6, a scary airborne flip scared his wife badly.

"I was all right," he said afterward. "I mean, it probably looked cool on TV, but I'm all right. ... I did gymnastics as a little kid, so I finished the flip."

	2013	2013 Pace	Career High
Receptions	40	71	55
Targets	62	110	90
Yards	421	748	626
Touchdowns	4	7	5

Just call him ____

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

Martellus Bennett took a page out of Shaquille O'Neal's playbook.

"I'm a big fan of Shaq growing up, and Shaq always had new nicknames so that's why I have a lot of nicknames," Bennett said.

Even Bennett's two dogs have interesting names:

Sebastian Janikowski,

after the Oakland kicker, and Zero, after a character in "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

But his teammates said they either haven't heard of his self-proclaimed nicknames or don't call him any of those. To them, he is simply Martellus. Or as he prefers, Marty.

Let's see if you can figure out which nicknames belong to Bennett and which are Shaq's.



1. Big Weirdo
2. The Big Cactus
3. The Black Unicorn
4. The Orange Dino
5. The Big Shamrock
6. The Diesel

Answers: 1. Bennett, 2. Shaq, 3. Bennett, 4. Bennett, 5. Shaq, 6. Shaq

WAIT, RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN ...

You never know what is going to come out of Martellus Bennett's mouth.

"I'm an imagineer and I'm a philosopher, that's not a word but should be. I like to philosophy about things and some things should be philosophied about, like cupcakes and things that really don't matter. ... My fun is different from most people's fun. I'm not dancing in the club or popping bottles or anything. The most I pop open is a book."

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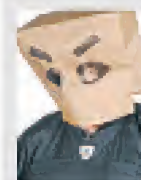
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1	How will the Hawks and Bulls handle playing three games in four nights?	Make a pit stop at Toronto Mayor Rob Ford's house.	They'll be slightly more tired than usual when cashing their multimillion-dollar paychecks.	The Hawks? Five outta 6 points. Bulls? Hopefully more than 5 points.	They're paid to do it. They'll manage.	@bryandamatan In lieu of practice, players will help change the ice/hardwood at the @unitedcenter.
2	When will the Hawks start Nikolai Khachatryan again?	Apparently when he hits legal retirement age. HOW IS HE STILL PLAYING?	March 6, 2033, in an old-timers' game.	Nov. 25 at Edmonton. Serious answer!	Right after the all-star break.	Vince LiFonti: 2004
3	What will Jay Cutler's role be during Sunday's game versus Baltimore?	He's the perfect fit to replicate Joe Flacco's ill-timed turnover technique.	To be ready when the TV cameras isolate on him to show how bored he is.	Be the focal point for irrational hatred from meatball fans, as per usual.	Cheerleader and assistant play caller.	Megan Therese: Honey Bear.
4	Playing beer pong with Michael Jordan is Jorgasmic.	... like golfing with a bro.	... remarkably easy. He's awful.	Pong the video game? They still make that? Wow.	@judygarnett ... probably what started the whole "buy the Bobcats" thing.
5	How is Northwestern attracting better basketball talent lately?	If you were capable of understanding "how," you'd already be on the team. Dohs.	Sex Panther. 60 percent of the time, it works every time.	They go to O'Hare holding a sign that says "Krzyzewski."	By offering them the chance to be annihilated against Michigan State.	Bobby Hillman: Promised collaborations with Chet Haze.

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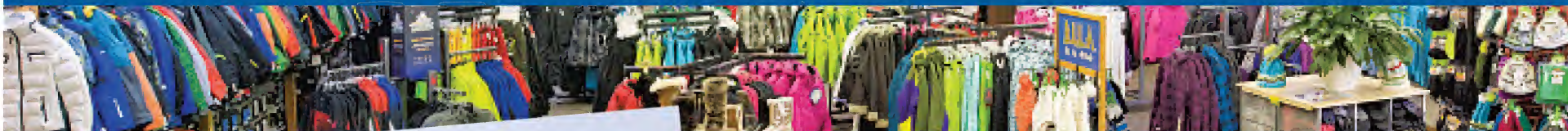
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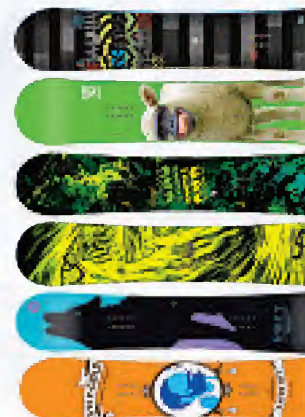


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WHAT A BIG LOGO YOU HAVE

The NBA has something up its sleeve for Christmas Day. Actually, make that short sleeves. Special "Big Logo" uniforms will be worn by the Bulls and the other nine teams that will be playing on the holiday. If they look like children's pajamas to you, well, you're probably not alone. Our question: Are they going to use those silver basketballs, too?



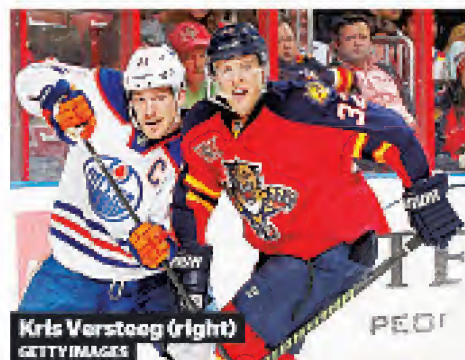
Derrick Rose

A little late, maybe

Bears QB Jay Cutler arrived at Thursday's practice sporting a black hard cast around his sprained left ankle, running above his shin. He will not play Sunday against Baltimore at Soldier Field. The Bears have identified his status as "week to week."

Paging Dr. Trestman ...

Marc Trestman might be taking a page out of Martellus Bennett's quote playbook: "What we try to do was, the times when we're having success and people are telling you how good you are and how good we are that it kind of stabilizes you," the Bears coach said. "So we vaccine these guys, so they don't make it about themselves." Don't let it go to your head. Got it.



Kris Versteeg (right)
GETTY IMAGES

Blackhawks 5, Phoenix 4 (SO)

Jonathan Toews and Brandon Pirri notched shootout goals to help the Blackhawks pick up the win against the Coyotes on Thursday at the United Center. But perhaps the bigger news of the day: The Hawks acquired forward Kris Versteeg and forward Philippe Lefebvre from the Panthers in exchange for forward Jimmy Hayes and defenseman Dylan Olsen. Versteeg, you'll recall, was on the 2010 Stanley Cup championship team and laid down a memorable rap at the victory rally. Welcome back to Chicago, Kris!

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URBAN sprawl

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

The three-way intersection of Halsted Street and Grand and Milwaukee avenues is where you might find yourself for breezy patio dinners at Piccolo Sogno, late nights at Funky Buddha Lounge or cheap drinking at loveable dive Richard's Bar. But it's also where a cluster of buildings owned by William and Henry Dawson, fireplace mantle magnates of the early 1900s, once stood. That's where the name and inspiration comes from for a new restaurant from Billy Lawless, who owns always-abuzz gastropub The Gage and neighboring Henri on Michigan Avenue, and Branko Palikuca, owner of suburban restaurants Topaz and Amber. The Dawsons were known for their intricate and finely crafted mantles and grates; Lawless and Palikuca—who met because Palikuca was a regular at The Gage—were intrigued by the Dawsons' ingenuity, pioneering attitude and detailed craftsmanship and wanted to re-create that spirit in the form of a turn-of-the-20th century American restaurant. I stopped in to see whether they succeeded.

The scene: I could tell from the towering two-story front door, the glass atrium foyer and the timber-lined ceilings that a healthy investment was made to build this place. But despite all the cash that was clearly dropped, the first-floor dining room felt like a spacious, impersonal box. Though you can't see the open kitchen from one side of the room because it's blocked by a massive bar, you can smell it from every table. Wood smoke hangs heavy in the air, lending a rustic, cozy campfire feel, but it was so strong I couldn't smell my own food when it came to the table.

The food: A veteran of Alinea and Next (which reinvents itself with a new concept three times a year), chef Rene De Leon has plenty of experience launching brand-new menus and making sure every detail is impeccable from day one. A week after The Dawson's debut, that polish and consistency was lacking. For his **chicken-fried steak**, I loved that De Leon replaced what is usually an over-fried, well-done thin chopped steak patty with a thick New York strip (\$32) cooked medium rare, wrapped in a flaky fried batter. The mashed potatoes on this plate were velvety and the greens, which are often cooked





The Dawson

730 W. Grand Ave. 312-243-8995

Take it or leave it

until limp, had a nice crisp texture and were packed with spice. But the biscuit on the side was lukewarm, and worse, cool in the middle. A dish of wood-grilled squid (\$15) channeled paella and bouillabaisse, with tiny bits of smoky chorizo and tender chickpeas floating in a broth of saffron fumet (a light fish stock), but it was so salty that I could feel the edges of my lips drying out after a few spoonfuls. All pastor tacos (\$6) had crispy corn shells but clumpy, dry meat. I'd definitely go back for the pickled onion rings (\$6); the tangy brined onions and the punch of the house-made barbecue sauce made the perfect match for the tempura-like breading. The best plate of the night was mughlai curry (\$17) featuring slivers of sweet roasted carrots and fruity slices of fig that stood up well to the fiery slick of curry. A garnish of papadam (Indian crackers made from lentil flour) added crunchy contrast. This was the kind of elegant and thoughtful plate that reminded me of the top-notch restaurants that De Leon has cooked at.

The influences: De Leon is inspired by so many things: American classics, the comfort food his mom cooked when was a kid and the dishes and techniques he learned to cook at some of the best restaurants in the world, including Noma in Denmark and El Celler de Can Roca in Spain. Instead of a crafty fusion of those influences, the menu feels like a confusion of gourmet and diner plus Latin, Southern American and Indian influences. I think if De Leon settles on more of a straight theme, say finessed American comfort food like that chicken-fried steak, he gives his kitchen a better shot at cooking consistently.

The drinks: I beelined for the beer list and wasn't sorry. A creamy stout from Evil Twin Brewing called Christmas Eve at a New York City Hotel Room (\$9) and Revolution Brew-



Liquid Swords

ing's Red Skull, a hoppy and caramelized imperial red ale, both stood up to the richer fried food on the menu. Cocktails created by Annemarie Sagoi (Graham Elliot, Big Star) include options such as Liquid Swords (\$10), an herbal, bitter drink that was brightened by a healthy splash of lemon and yuzu sake.

The service: Owner Billy Lawless has a Cheshire Cat-like smile and a gigantic presence. When he stood within a few feet of my table, it almost felt like a potbelly stove alit nearby. When he bent toward the table and asked us how everything was with his slight Irish lilt, I kinda wanted to bro-hug the dude, buy him a pint of Guinness and ask if I could hang out and watch soccer (I mean football?) with him. I held myself back. While we were waiting for dessert, he looked down and realized our table was set with soup spoons instead of dessert spoons. "Restaurateur OCD," he said after swapping them out. "It's the little things." It felt like maybe I'd been recognized and this move was staged for my benefit; if not, it was pretty brilliant attention to detail.

Bottom line: It's tough to put a finger on what feels off about the space, but I think what I expected from The Dawson is the pubby intimacy of Lawless's old spot, The Grafton, or at least the clubbiness and quiet of the back room at The Gage. Instead, it was just cold openness. There are some incredible, high-quality plates from De Leon, but there are just as many snafus to smooth out.

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This made-from-scratch fast-food joint became buzzworthy this week after announcing plans for a second location in Lakeview. In the meanwhile, get your fix for burgers, fish and chips and seriously addictive fries at the original Near North location.



A10
JASON LITTLE
PHOTO FOR REDEYE

A10

1462 E. 53rd St. 773-288-1010

Yusho chef Matthias Merges is expanding his empire with this recently opened Hyde Park restaurant. Flavor inspirations are both far-flung (think Italian-inspired dishes such as oricchette with rapini and calabrian chili—and close to home (like Great Lakes smelt with caesar dressing).

Lone Wolf

806 W. Randolph St. 312-600-9391

Apparently there really is room for more nightlife action on Randolph Street, which this week welcomed a new bar from the Heisler Hospitality juggernaut (Trenchermen, The Revel Room, Bangers & Lace) and Stephen Cole (The Barrelhouse Flat). The interior aims for a laid-back, neighborhood feel, and the tight menu offers refreshing citrus cocktails as well as amaro-based drinks and craft beer. Snacks come courtesy of Bridgeport's Pleasant House Bakery.

Hunters & Tails

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This week's-old American gastropub brings plenty of draft, bottled and canned beer to a casual, wood-accented tavern in Humboldt Park. While you sip your brew—or cocktail—order up hearty dishes such as braised pork shoulder, grilled portabella torte or pumpkin risotto.

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Husband-and-wife team Joe and Megan Krouse have brought new life into the former Leopold address by combining his love for grilled meats with her talent for doctoring up veggies and grains. Chef Bradford Phillips, whose name you'll recognize from a turn at Pump Room and LM restaurants, turns out everything from spaghetti squash with spiced butter to hearty pork chops and steaks.

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Spitzer, Assange or Armstrong?



Alex Gibney
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Documentarian Alex Gibney on his controversial subjects

By Matt Pais | REDEYE

Who will have the hardest time redeeming himself: Lance Armstrong, Julian Assange or Eliot Spitzer?

If anyone can offer an informed opinion, it's director Alex Gibney, who, with Friday's release of "The Armstrong Lie," has now made documentaries about all three controversial figures. (The other films are "Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer" and "We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks.") At the Peninsula Hotel, the 60-year-old Oscar-winning filmmaker ("Taxi to the Dark Side") compared some of his highest-profile subjects.

Read and watch much more from this interview at redeyechicago.com.

Who will have the hardest time redeeming himself: Lance Armstrong, and the reason is he sold a lie that was so big that he implicated so many people and made people believe so fervently, and he went after people much weaker than he in such a brutal fashion.

Most surprising scandal: Eliot Spitzer. More than Lance, because at least in my case, I sensed that in the world of sports some kind of doping had probably gone on in those tours. Particularly if you look at all the people who shared the podium with him, and they had been doping. So something had gone on there. With Eliot Spitzer, he was such a paragon of probity and he made such a big deal about being Mr. Goody Two-Shoes. ... So to see that he was running around late trying to do detailed ditching of his security services in order to meet up with high-priced escorts and negotiating with a 22-year-old madam, that was a shock.

Toughest documentary to make: "We Steal Secrets." The reason was that it just had an element of breadth, and also it was about a world that was almost intensely in the imagination and played itself out online rather than in any action fashion. Lance Armstrong took the biggest turn, but it was always a film about a sport. Eliot Spitzer was always about law and order. "We Steal Secrets" is about a gray area, and it's about a gray area where people are communicating online via

text. And to penetrate that world was very difficult to do.

The movie that gets viewers most fired up:

Of those three? Probably "The Armstrong Lie." I think there is an intensity of anger toward Armstrong that is really extreme. You go around the country now and talk to people and they are still inflamed because they feel that he transgressed against their very best instincts. That is to say, they gave him all the credit in the world for what he was doing with cancer survivors, and in fact that ended up being part of his elaborate deception.

Whom he'd most want to get a beer with: That's a tough one. Not Julian Assange. I

would tell you that both Lance Armstrong and Eliot Spitzer are fun to have a beer with ... I didn't have a beer with [Assange]; I had a

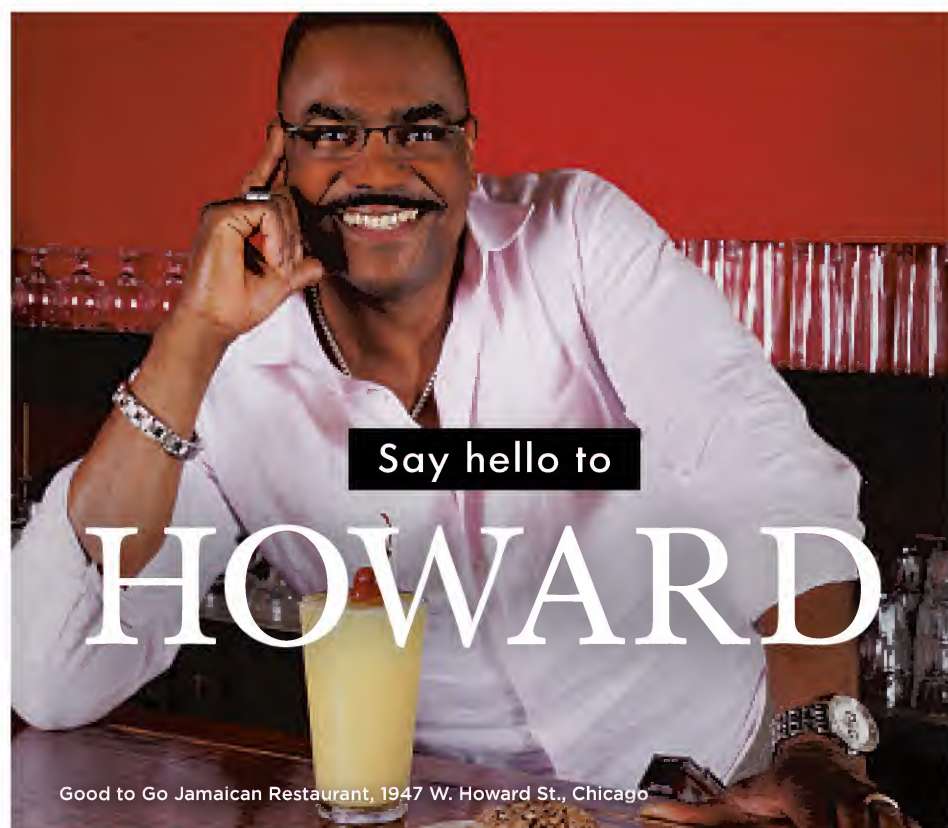
tea with him. And then I had a six-hour sit-down interview where we were negotiating over whether or not he would sit down. I had to beg him for 30-60 seconds to go to the bathroom so I could just take a break, and I would come back in and he could continue the sentence he had paused while I was asking for a break.

Whom he'd be most nervous to see again: I don't know that I would be nervous with any of those three guys. I'm always in-

terested in that. I'd be interested in meeting Assange. Except that if he started to make a speech, I would probably run out of the room screaming. MPAIS@TRIBUNE.COM | @MATTPAIS

PLUS: What he'd want to ask Steve Bartman, who is discussed in Gibney's doc "Catching Hell"

I guess I would want to ask him why he was so adamant about wanting to remain anonymous. I find it the most interesting and intriguing thing about him ... standing up might have put an end to all the rancor, [so] why did he insist on remaining so anonymous? I can appreciate that he was scared. Because people were throwing rocks at him. Maybe if people had tackled him they might have hurt him pretty bad. So I can appreciate that.



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The questions that must be addressed in a documentary about disgraced cycling champ Lance Armstrong's fall from stardom are, obviously, "How could he?" and "What was he thinking?"

Long intrigued by controversial figures, director Alex Gibney ("We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks," "Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer") answers in effective but somewhat limited fashion. "The Armstrong Lie" depicts Armstrong as someone whose refusal to lose compelled him to win at all costs—and to justify it based on the sport's culture of cheating and his LiveStrong organization's good deeds. When the film captures its subject coming clean (after being backed into a corner) only to still hang on half-truths or deceptions when possible, it's a tragic mo-


The Armstrong Lie
R

ment that should make the last few people not disgusted by this liar change their minds.

The film, fortunately, doesn't aim to attack Armstrong from all angles. Initially attempting to document the seven-time Tour De France winner's 2009 comeback (which preceded the stripping of all his titles, of course), Gibney admits that he became a fan, rooting for the cancer survivor and global icon to earn redemption on two wheels. For a brief period, Armstrong did. Yet it's clear his naive confidence about his own power and the power of deny-deny-deny led to nasty attacks on his critics and spurned friends/teammates like Floyd Landis, who only became extra-motivated to expose the truth. Had Armstrong not attempted his post-championship


Lance Armstrong in 'The Armstrong Lie'

comeback, or been so defiant in going after those who sought to set the record straight, we might still see him as a hero.

This story is bigger than that, though. Gibney misses a chance to incorporate other professional athletes (including Ryan Braun and Mark McGwire) who deluded themselves into thinking they could get away with breaking rules. "The Armstrong Lie" often focuses on specific events and a revolving door of

talking heads instead of zooming out and addressing what this all means. Including a psychologist wouldn't have hurt.

It's compelling anyway. Interviewed by Gibney earlier this year, Armstrong still says he's the only person who can reveal the truth, despite the many people who long knew what he was up to and his current lack of credibility. In some ways, the most powerful lies are the ones we tell ourselves.

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Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1646 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) ★ D 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 9:30 ■Gravity 3D (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20 ■Gravity (PG-13) D 10:00, 9:45 ■Ender's Game (PG-13) D 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45 ■Captain Phillips (PG-13) D 10:25, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25 ■Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG) D 11:15, 1:40, 4:05 ■Carrie (R) D 7:45, 10:15 ■Last Vegas (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10 ■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) ★ 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 10:30 ■The Best Man Holiday (R) ★ D 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 ■Free Birds (PG) D 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00 ■AMC Independent Nosotros los Nobles (PG-13) D 11:45, 2:25, 5:05 ■Free Birds (PG) (Closed caption) 9:30 ■Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) D 10:05, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 ■AMC Independent 12 Years a Slave (R) ★ D 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15		SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC) 7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #2309 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) ★ D 10:30, 11:45, 1:30, 2:00, 2:45, 3:30, 4:30, 5:45, 7:30, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 ■Gravity 3D (PG-13) 10:10, 12:00, 4:40, 7:10, 8:10, 10:40 ■Ender's Game (PG-13) D 10:30, 11:30, 1:15, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 6:45, 7:45, 9:30 ■Captain Phillips (PG-13) D 12:20, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00 ■Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG) D 12:10, 2:40, 5:10 ■Carrie (R) D 10:30 ■About Time (R) ★ D 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 9:20 ■Last Vegas (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10 ■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) ★ 11:00, 12:30, 5:00, 6:30 ■The Best Man Holiday (R) ★ D 10:15, 11:15, 1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15 ■Free Birds (PG) D 10:10, 11:10, 12:40, 1:40, 3:10, 5:40, 7:00, 10:45 ■Free Birds (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 4:10 ■Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) D 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 7:45, 10:10, 11:45 ■AMC Independent 12 Years a Slave (R) D 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20 ■Thor: The Dark World -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00		OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC) 2350 144th Ave., Oak Park (800) 326-3264 #1646 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00, 5:00, 10:00 ■Gravity 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 4:30, 8:40 ■Ender's Game (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:15, 7:10, 9:40 ■About Time (R) (Closed caption) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:35 ■Last Vegas (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 ■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:30, 7:30, 10:30 ■Free Birds (PG) (Closed caption) 1:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 ■Free Birds 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 4:20 ■Dallas Buyers Club (R) (Closed caption) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50 ■12 Years a Slave (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30, 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50, 11:40		EVANSTON CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY) 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston (847) 492-0123 #6 ■Gravity 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15 ■Captain Phillips (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:15, 7:20, 10:30 ■The Best Man Holiday (R) D (Closed caption) 12:25, 3:45, 7:25, 10:25 ■About Time (R) D (Closed caption) 11:45, 4:05, 7:35, 10:35 ■All Is Lost (PG-13) D 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 ■Ender's Game (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:10 ■12 Years a Slave (R) D (Closed caption) 12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 ■Last Vegas (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35 ■Free Birds (PG) D (Closed caption) 12:10, 5:10, 10:10 ■Free Birds 3D (PG) D 2:40, 7:40 ■Dallas Buyers Club (R) (Closed caption) 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 11:15, 12:35, 2:15, 3:45, 6:15, 7:45, 10:35 ■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50 ■The Best Man Holiday (R) D 12:20, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 ■The Armstrong Lie (R) D (Closed caption) 11:00, 12:50, 2:05, 3:55, 5:10, 7:00, 8:15, 9:00, 10:05	
CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL) 2600 N. Western Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1642 ■Thor: The Dark World -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10 ■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 1:40, 7:40 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 10:40, 4:40, 10:40 ■Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 8:50, 10:10 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:10, 1:10, 3:10, 6:20, 7:10, 9:40 ■The Best Man Holiday (R) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00 ■Free Birds 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 9:30 ■Last Vegas (PG-13) (Closed caption) 7:30, 10:25 ■Free Birds (PG) (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50 ■Ender's Game (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:05, 2:05, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35 ■Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:30, 5:30, 8:20, 10:50 ■Carrie (R) (Closed caption) 12:20, 3:00, 5:45, 8:15, 10:55 ■Captain Phillips (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00, 3:15, 7:20, 10:45 ■Gravity 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 ■Gravity (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:45 ■Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG) (Closed caption) 11:15, 2:15, 4:55		GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER 164 State Street (312) 846-2800 ■Days of Heaven (PG) 6:00 ■Herb & Dorothy 50x50 (NR) 8:00, 8:00 ■City of God (R) 7:45		LOGAN THEATRE 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 252-0628 ■Don Jon (R) 2:10, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:45 ■Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG) 2:15, 4:10, 6:05 ■Rush (R) 8:00 ■Ghost (PG-13) 10:30 ■Captain Phillips (PG-13) 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 ■Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (R) 2:25, 4:20, 6:15, 8:20, 10:15		DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE) 4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago (773) 784-0893 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) ★ 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 ■Ender's Game (PG-13) 4:50, 7:20, 9:45 ■Last Vegas (PG-13) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 ■Gravity (PG-13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40		THE PATIO THEATER 6008 W. Irving Park Road (773) 685-4291					

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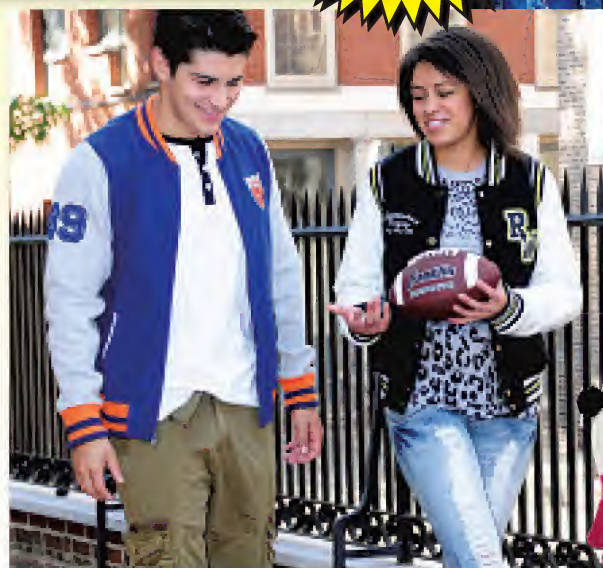
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Belated sequel brings fun home for holidays



FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
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How long has it been since 1999's likable, mild "The Best Man"? That movie featured Lauryn Hill music when it was still semi-new. Despite its odd timing and title—you can't just add seasonal words to a franchise; please let us never see "The Hunger Games Thanksgiving"—"The Best Man Holiday" does right by its characters and handles its emotional challenges properly. That may sound like a cinematic given, but it happens less often than it should. What may happen often among viewers is the mingling of fond memories and not-quite-healed wounds when old friends get



together. Just before Christmas, the whole gang from "The Best Man," most of whom are married with kids, converge on the mansion of Mia (Monica Calhoun) and Lance (Morris Chestnut), the New York Giants star runningback who's 176 yards from breaking the all-time rushing record. (Sorry, Emmitt Smith.) Though it's been a long time since Harper (Taye Diggs) proposed to Robyn (Sanaa Lathan) at the Mia/Lance wedding after clearing up the whole Harper-and-Mia-slept-together-back-in-the-day thing, the tension between the former best friends remains. That's bad for Harper, who needs a new hit book and thinks a biography of Lance is the ticket. "Exploit your friend for capital gain," Harper's agent (John Michael Higgins) says.




"This is America!" Indeed it is, and it's a country where strong, modern on-screen portrayals of African-Americans occur at a shamefully low frequency. (Don't even start me on Tyler

Perry.) "The Best Man Holiday" writer-director Malcolm D. Lee is responsible for some of the garbage, like "Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins" and "Soul Men." Here, though, Lee's on solid footing, even moreso than in "The Best Man." The better-paced sequel again capitalizes on a unified cast, and this time the fun jumps off the screen. Unfortunately Lee relies on sitcom-level incidents of technology foibles. His tear-jerking tendencies also go a little far in drawing tension out of a suspected illness and a kid responding to fighting adults by saying, "This doesn't feel like Christmas to me." Still, Terrence Howard is hilarious as monogamy opponent Quentin, and Harold Perrineau and Regina Hall effectively ground the Julian/Candace relationship that started when she danced at Lance's bachelor party. Again highlighting the folly of deception among loved ones and valuing church, forgiveness and commitment with somewhat uneven performances, "The Best Man Holiday" genuinely looks at friendship and various concerns of growing older. See you in 14 years, fellas. Or, based on the way this installment ends, possibly sooner.


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movies



Sophie Nelisse (right) and Geoffrey Rush in 'The Book Thief'

Don't try to make Nazi Germany cute

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

This must be a nightmare: There can't actually be a cutesy, vapid dramedy set in WWII-era Germany featuring voiceover from Death. With a charming British accent.

Death does not have a charming British accent! He doesn't comment on how he encounters humans at their best and at their worst (not necessarily true) and that no one served the Fuhrer more loyally than he! The "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" of Holocaust movies, "The Book Thief," adapted from Markus Zusak's novel, is a fantasy, a fairy tale and a crock. Bordering on propaganda, the film is almost completely isolated from the horrors of war. It largely ignores the millions of Jews persecuted and killed, and instead delivers a shameless tear-jerker about a pretty young girl who likes reading, hoping to generate emotion through the collateral damage deaths of a few innocent Germans. And I thought "The Reader" was exploitative.

Pre-teen Liesel (Sophie Nelisse) loses her younger brother and gets turned over to new parents Hans (Geoffrey Rush) and Rosa (Emily Watson), though she sheds no tears and her adoptive mom can't understand why her new daughter would be shy and unhappy. Rosa's harshness exists so Hans can grumble about how his wife won't keep her yap shut, like some kind of 1950s American sitcom.

!!!! The Book Thief
PG-13
(Yes, that's zero stars)

The main characters almost exclusively speak English, as if "und," "nein" and "danke schoen" were the only German words at the time.

The script from Michael Petroni ("The Rite") presents an insultingly smiley character in Max (Ben Schnetzer), the young Jewish man Hans and Rosa hide in their basement. (This leads to the requisite scene of a Nazi officer coming in to search.) Max tells Liesel that words are life, a lesson that appears hollow at every turn. Director Brian Percival doesn't care about Max's experience, though, especially proven in the ultimate, detached resolution to the Jewish man's story. All the team behind "The Book Thief"—which gets no points for competent performances—wants is for viewers to grin at moments like Max and Liesel joking about Hitler's mom scolding him and Liesel and her smitten best friend, Rudy (Nico Liersch), shouting across a lake, "I hate Hitler!" So darling, right?

The film's title comes from Liesel, who at first can't read or write but learns very quickly, eventually swiping a few books. She hasn't thought about what she's doing or reading, and the few viewers who applauded this offensive Oscar bait clearly hadn't thought about what they'd seen—unless they were cheering the last of about seven fake endings. I almost booed.







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IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 27



Shia LaBeouf in 'Charlie Countryman'

Shia + Chicago = Nothing but trouble

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

Any movie that hinges on the secret contents of a videotape intentionally mislabeled "Cubbies win World Series—1995" has a sick, dark sense of humor.

In the unexpectedly funny, consistently engrossing "Charlie Countryman," Charlie (Shia LaBeouf) leaves Chicago after his mother (Melissa Leo) passes away and, in a vision, tells her son to go to Bucharest, Romania. Detached from his ex (Aubrey Plaza, in a single scene) and apparently not working, Charlie obliges, though maybe he's just subconsciously thinking of the problems LaBeouf had in Chicago in the "Transformers" franchise and in real life and favors a change of scenery.

Soon the guy next to him on the plane dies and also speaks to Charlie from beyond the grave. The American makes it to Romania, where he's Tasered and falling for his deceased seatmate's daughter Gabi (Evan Rachel Wood) while looking over his shoulder for her very clearly dangerous husband (Mads Mikkelsen of "Hannibal"). If that's not enough of a spicy "Run, Shia, Run" international adventure, Charlie also bonds with his roommates at a hostel. One bunkmate, played by Rupert "Ron Weasley" Grint, wants to be a porn star named "Boris Pecker" and gets into a pickle after

!!! Charlie Countryman R

taking no fewer than five Romanian Viagra at once.

Perhaps it's not surprising that "Charlie Countryman" comes from a co-writer of "Project X," another film whose experiential flavor and anything-can-happen energy were underappreciated by people shaking their fists at all the bad behavior. "Charlie" at times feels aimless; a few indulgences (like depicting a soul fairy flying out of a body) register as distracting instead of useful to the story. We also don't learn enough about Charlie before his trip to see how it changes him.

Yet the right word-of-mouth could make this an underground hit. The film's loose approach and bizarre developments fit Charlie's feeling of being lost and looking for buoys at a transitional time. I love how both Charlie and Gabi, who tells him, "If you find me tomorrow, I will kiss you" in a language he doesn't speak, consciously work to make sure their last memories of their lost parents are happy. Few explorations of the grieving process involve an Ecstasy-driven fantasy of a club full of naked women or a moving eye at the bottom of a urinal, but don't knock it until you've tried it.

The movie, I mean. Not Ecstasy.



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Karl Urban
in 'Almost Human'

'Almost Human' is a rousing robromance

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Fox's new series "Almost Human" has a future more promising than the one it depicts.

The latest production from the "Fringe" team of

creator J.H. Wyman and executive producer J.J. Abrams looks 35 years ahead to 2048, when police are losing the battle against increasingly organized and weaponized criminals.

In an L.A. that looks like the urban mess in "Blade Runner," Det. John Kennex (Karl Urban) has come out of a 17-month coma after he lost his leg and his human partner in an ambush. He's suffering from "depression, mental atrophy, trauma onset, OCD, PTSD and psychological rejection of his synthetic body parts." So naturally his boss, Capt. Sandra Maldonado (Lili Taylor), insists he come back to work—because who doesn't want that kind of guy patrolling the mean streets?

Maldonado needs his expertise: The Syndicate, a shady group of terrorists responsible for the attack on Kennex, is back.

Kennex returns to the force but doesn't want to follow new protocols that require him to be partnered with an MX-43, the latest robocop model that shows no emotion as it spouts facts and everything else that could annoy a cranky detective with a glitchy robotic leg—that synthetic part he's rejecting—who blames a robot for abandoning him



Almost Human

7 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Fox

during the ambush.

So Kennex pushes his android partner out of a moving car.

Kennex then partners with a discontinued model, the DRN, or as Kennex calls them, "the crazy ones." Scientists stopped making the DRNs because they showed "unexpected emotional responses" that could become troublesome in battle.

Dorian (Michael Ealy) bugs Kennex at first, but the human slowly warms to his partner. The "two cops from the scrap heap," as another officer says, fall into a robromance.

The actors playing them have equally great chemistry. Urban gives good quip, while Ealy has fun showing Dorian break down his anti-social partner's walls.

The premiere establishes a mythology that Wyman says will play out in tandem with weekly cases. He peppers what really is a police procedural with enough not-so-distant science to make "Almost Human" a sci-fi thriller, and enough humor to make it a buddy cop comedy.

These familiar elements work without the show feeling like a retread. Monday's second episode has sexbots, so the future looks even brighter. "Almost Human" has plenty of action, sci-fi and one-liners to keep fans of several genres happy.



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02 FORD F-150 EXT CAB 4X4 XLT PKG, 8FT BOX, 1 OWNER, LIKE NEW, #X2015 \$9,989 [^] \$219 [^]	07 FORD F-150 EXT CAB 4X4 BLACK, 20" WHLS, LEATHER MOONROOF, LOADED! #1099A \$18,989 [^] \$359 [^]	13 FORD F150 CARGO WHITE, PL, PW, TILT, CRUISE, BALANCE OF FACTORY WRNTY, PRE-DRIVEN, #X3100 \$19,989 [^] \$379 [^]	08 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 CREW MAX 4X4 OFF-ROAD PKG, ALLOYS, TRAILER TOW PKG, FULLY LOADED! #1111A \$24,989 [^] \$479 [^]	08 FORD F-250 SUPER DUTY FX4 XLT PWR, PL, AUTO, ALUM WHLS, #X3911 \$24,989 [^] \$479 [^]	13 FORD F-150 CREW CAB 4X4 XLT FORD CERTIFIED, 7 YR/100,000 MILE WRNTY, LOW MILES, PRE-DRIVEN, LOADED, #X220 \$32,989 [^] \$629 [^]	05 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LTD LTHR, MOONROOF, CHROME WHLS, ONLY 55K MILES, #1495 \$9,989 [^] \$219 [^]	09 FORD FLEX LIMITED ALL THE OPTIONS, 1 OWNER, EXTRA CLEAN, #X1511A \$15,989 [^] \$299 [^]	12 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING LTHR, CAPTAIN CHAIRS, DUAL PWR SLINGS DRS, NICE, #X4022 \$19,989 [^] \$379 [^]	13 FORD FLEX SEL AWD SILVER, ALLOYS, DUAL AC, FULLY LOADED, PRE-DRIVEN, #X2016 \$24,989 [^] \$479 [^]
08 AUDI A4 QUATTRO PEARL WHITE, LEATHER, MOONROOF, SPORT PKG, LOADED, #X2053 \$18,989 [^] \$359 [^]	08 BMW 535i GRAPHITE, LEATHER, MOONROOF, COLO WEATHER PKG, ONLY 41K MILES, #X3019 \$22,989 [^] \$439 [^]	12 MINI COOPER S 1 OWNER, EXTRA CLEAN, LEATHER, SUNROOF, ALUM WHLS, #X2023 \$23,989 [^] \$459 [^]	10 ACURA RDX TECH PKG PWR MOONROOF, LTHR, NAVI, LOADED, #X2002 \$24,989 [^] \$479 [^]	10 ACURA TL 3.7 I/TECH BLACK, AWD, NAVI, FULLY LOADED, #70393A \$26,989 [^] \$539 [^]	14 FORD TAURUS LTD BLACK ON BLACK, LEATHER, 1K, TOP OF THE LINE PRE-DRIVEN, #X2053 \$28,989 [^] \$559 [^]	11 LEXUS IS350 AWD ALL THE TOYS, NAVI, SUNROOF, EXTRA CLEAN, #X2212 \$28,989 [^] \$559 [^]	13 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED FORD CERTIFIED, 7 YR/100,000 MILE WRNTY, LTHR, 8TH SEAT, PRE-DRIVEN, LOADED, #X201A \$34,989 [^] \$669 [^]	12 ACURA MDX TECH PKG SILVER, LEATHER, MOONROOF, NAVI, ENT SYSTEM, #X2009 \$38,989 [^] \$859 [^]	10 FORD F-150 RAPTOR EXT CAB BLACK, NAVI, MOONROOF, ONE-OF-A-KIND, #5077A \$42,989 [^] \$829 [^]

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Good band, bad name

Unfortunately, Diarrhea Planet isn't the only example

By Matt Pais and Ernest Wilkins | REDEYE

Waka Flocka Flame



The sonic equivalent of naming a neutron bomb "Huckleberry Hound." The name completely takes away from the intensity of the music. **E.W.**

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Manchester Orchestra

Great band from Atlanta. They're not an orchestra. That seems needlessly confusing.

M.P.

It would be very easy to hear about a band named Diarrhea Planet and ignore them completely. No one with the terrible judgment to call a band that can have the good judgment to make music worth hearing.

Of course, you know all that business about judging and book covers. Diarrhea Planet is actually pretty good, as are these other questionably named groups that come to mind. **@REDEYECHEMUSIC**

Forever annoyed with this name. Also, forever annoyed with their gradual descent into mediocrity. **E.W.**

MGMT



Radiohead

The music is far too smart for a name so stupid. **M.P.**

Diarrhea Planet,
9:30 p.m.
Nov. 16 at Beat
Kitchen, \$10.

Art Brut Does it rhyme with "butt," or do you pronounce it like the wack cologne from the '80s? No matter how you say it, the songs are airtight. **E.W.**

The Hold Steady

OK, I'm holding. Now what? **E.W.**

Chvrches

The whole "replace vowels with symbols" trend is hacky and tired. This indie pop group deserves better. Sorry, I mean "dvsrvrvs bvttr." **E.W.**

The Joy Formidable The Welsh trio is intense and powerful. The name is wordy and pretentious. **M.P.**

We All Have Hooks for Hands

I'm sad this South Dakota collective is no more. Not because I'll miss recommending them by their ridiculous name. **M.P.**

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FATAL JAMZ

THE KILLS



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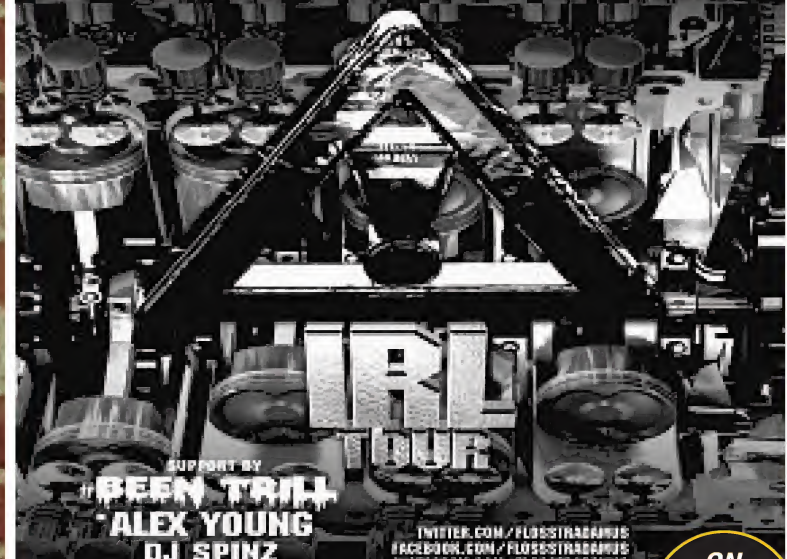
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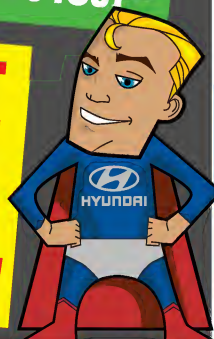
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Man 1.8 S
Stk#Y7061A
\$12,834[^]****\$129
per month******2011
Hyundai
Accent
4dr Sdn
Man GLS
Stk#Y6414A
\$10,984[^]****\$99
per month******2011
Hyundai
Tucson
AWD 4dr
Auto GLS
Stk#Y6893A
\$21,884[^]****\$269
per month******2013
Hyundai
Elantra
GT 5dr
HB
Stk#Y7114A
\$19,974[^]****\$239
per month******2010
Hyundai
Tucson
FWD 4dr
I4 Auto GLS
Stk#Y7152A
\$15,984[^]****\$179
per month******2012
Dodge
Journey
AWD 4dr
SXT
Stk#YPM3821
\$19,774[^]****\$229
per month******2010
Volkswagen
Jetta Sdn
4dr DSG
Wolfsburg
Stk#Y6879A
\$16,994[^]****\$189
per month******2012
Dodge
Grand
Caravan
4dr Wgn SXT
Stk#YPM3812
\$13,994[^]****\$139
per month******2012
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Can I lovingly choke you?



Anna Pulley

» redeye@tribune.com
» @annapulley

Dear Anna, I'm relatively new to BDSM and I just started a sexual relationship with a nice vanilla-in-bed bisexual girl who knows I'm leaving Chicago soon. As we were talking about what we like in bed, she offered to sub for me, but I had no idea how to get things moving. I came very

close to blurted out "I would like to choke you in a gentle and loving manner." This can't be right. Where to start? —Choked Up

Dear Choked,

Ah yes, the words every girl wants to hear on a third date.

Depending on how soon you're leaving, there's no harm in asking her the question the way you worded it above, but considering the timing, your inexperience and her vanilla-in-bed tendencies, you'll probably have to wait for more ideal circumstances before you get to lovingly suffocate anyone.

Choking, or "breath play," as it's called in kink circles, is about the thrill of deprivation. When the flow of oxygen is reduced, the sex endorphins combined with the return of oxygen gives the chokee a physiological and psychological rush. Of course, part of that rush is the danger that you might die, and it's a very real danger, according to the Internet's foremost choking expert, Jay Wiseman, who advises against breath play unless you know CPR. "The primary danger of suffocation play is that it is not a condition that gets



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worse over time; what happens is that the more the play is prolonged, the greater the odds that a cardiac arrest will occur," he said.

Breath play seems to fall into an unusual taboo camp—articles mainly advise people not to mess around with it, at the same time as they describe its allure in great detail. The consensus I've gotten from several Chicago-area dominatrixes is that in order to safely practice breath play, one should avoid the neck, and anything that puts pressure on the carotid body or the windpipe. One mistress told me, "I'll play with hands and nose pinching and masks, but I do not use nooses or garrots."

As with any new-ish sexual partner, consent, trust and communication are non-negotiable. If your partner expresses interest, you'll want to start slow, check in frequently and make sure that the one whose breath is being restricted has a way to, you know, ask you to stop. "Blink three times if I'm killing you," etc.

It's difficult to say where "lovingly choking" falls on the fun to death spectrum, but it is dangerous if you're getting into actually cutting off breath, so don't do that. Acceptable forms of breath play, according to my lawyer, are yoga, Lamaze classes and Breathalyzer role playing.

WANT TO ASK ANNA AN ANONYMOUS QUESTION ABOUT LOVE, SEX OR DATING? EMAIL YOUR QUANDARY TO REDEYEDATING@GMAIL.COM. NEED TO GIVE YOUR DATING LIFE A BOOST? SIGN UP FOR REDEYE DATING.

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WOULD YOU RATHER NEGOTIATE WITH 1 HORSE-SIZED ERIC HOLDER, OR 100 DUCK-SIZED ERIC HOLDERS? #ASKJPM

—@kevinroose

Not too big to troll

JPMorgan social event blows up in its face



YOUNG MONEY

Megan Crepeau

» mcrepeau@tribune.com
» @crepeau

Finance giant JPMorgan has been in some trouble lately. It's the subject of several Justice Department probes; it may need to pay billions of dollars in a federal settlement, and it's reporting lower revenue—oh, and there was that whole “financial crisis” thing a few years back. And now, it turns out Twitter really, really hates the company.

Some poor social media intern surely found that out the hard way Wednesday, after launching an “Ask JPMorgan” event and opening the floor for questions, complete with #AskJPM hashtag. Oh, the trolls had their fun. Here's a sampling of the silliest. (It canceled the #AskJPM event

Wednesday evening, tweeting “Tomorrow's Q&A is cancelled. Bad Idea. Back to the drawing board.”) **MEGAN CREPEAU IS A REDEYE COPY EDITOR TRYING SO, SO HARD TO GET HER MONEY STUFF TOGETHER.**

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF WHALE? #ASKJPM

—@ObsoleteDogma

WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOUR ABSURD DISREGARD FOR LONG-TERM PROFITS IN FAVOR OF SHORT-TERM ILLUSORY GROWTH IS EVIL, OR JUST STUPID? #ASKJPM —@mynameisdan

DID IT HURT WHEN SATAN TOOK OVER YOUR BODY? #ASK JPM

—@deonopperman6

#ASKJPM SHOULD I HAVE THIS MOLE REMOVED?

—@nickhatchr

JPM HAS LIKELY FIGURED OUT HOW TO SECURITIZE SNARKY TWEETS AND SELL THEM TO @FEDERALRESERVE #ASKJPM —@MilitantlyKind

WOULD YOU SAY IT WAS A GREAT RECESSION OR THE GREATEST RECESSION? #ASKJPM —@doeyjavls

puzzles

	5	1			9		2	
				2		5		
4			5				7	
8		9	7	6				
		5				6		
				9	5	3		8
	4			6				5
		3		4				
	9		1			2	4	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

3	8	6	5	4	9	7	2	1
9	1	2	6	3	7	4	5	8
5	4	7	1	2	8	9	6	3
8	7	9	2	6	3	5	1	4
2	3	4	9	5	1	6	8	7
6	5	1	7	8	4	2	3	9
4	6	8	3	7	5	1	9	2
7	9	5	8	1	2	3	4	6
1	2	3	4	9	6	8	7	5

THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

B	L	U	R	S	T	E	V	E	S	O	R	E
L	O	S	E	W	O	M	E	N	A	G	O	G
A	G	E	S	O	N	S	E	T	D	R	A	G
H	O	S	I	E	R	Y	R	E	A	D	E	R
				D	A	D	V	E	R	S	E	
O	C	C	U	R	D	I	D	I	N	C	A	S
M	O	R	E	S	O	S	C	A	S	I	N	O
A	L	E	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	G	N	U
H	O	A	R	D	S	B	A	D	V	A	I	N
A	R	M	E	D	F	L	Y	B	O	R	E	D
				B	E	L	I	E	L	A	Y	
B	R	O	A	D	E	N	C	I	T	A	D	E
R	I	O	T	A	A	R	O	N	G	O	Y	A
A	D	Z	E	F	L	U	K	E	E	V	E	N
T	E	E	S	Y	E	M	E	N	R	E	D	D

ACROSS

- 1 Street surfer
6 In; wearing
10 One of the Three Bears
14 Banishment
15 Actor's part
16 Elderly
17 Santa's helpers
18 Fumbler's word
19 Use a Kindle
20 Response to a stimulus
22 Son in a royal family
24 Fish; aquarium
25 Little pad under a drink
26 Afternoon nap
29 Door fastener
30 Depressed; sad
31 Join, as a club
33 Actor Stacy
37 Thing; object
39 Rarin' to go
41 Grain storage tower
42 Fortuneteller's deck of cards
44 Eskimo canoe
46 to; because of
47 Peace Prize
49 Kids; jokes with
51 Gondola operator
54 Unyielding
55 Pockmark on the moon
56 Covered wagon passengers
60 Sheltered bay
61 Make indistinct
63 Arm joint
64 friendly; easy to operate
65 Uncommon
66 Tripoli's nation
67 Cincinnati team
68 Filled with wonder
69 Disrespectful

DOWN

- 1 Look searchingly
2 Wheel rod
3 Paper towel brand
4 Votes into office
5 Say again
6 Thief
7 Crazy as a
8 Mont Blanc or the Matterhorn
9 Powerful ruler
10 Louisiana's counties

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21				22	23			
				24					25					
26	27	28						29						
30						31		32			33	34	35	36
37			38			39				40		41		
42				43		44				45		46		
						47		48			49	50		
51	52	53							54					
55								56				57	58	59
60						61	62				63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

- 11 Insurance seller
12 Harmony
13 Deadly snake
21 Foolish
23 Off-the; ready-made
25 Mariah or Drew
26 Narrow cut
27 Tiny bit
28 Beverage holder
29 Allowed by law

- 32 aback; surprised
34 Assists
35 Board game
36 Garden tools
38 Ogres
40 Numerical comparison
43 Heavy book
45 Pieces of corn
48 Ms. Streisand
50 Aviator Earhart

- 51 Happen
52 Got up
53 Talked wildly
54 Gave a pink slip to
56 Untainted
57 Recedes
58 Rogers & Clark
59 Influence
62 Statute



No Hard Feelings, Hunger.



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Regular Classic Italian Subs (Mr. Sub)
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MARKETPLACE



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of our inventory

MAZDA 2011 MAZDA3,
Only 46K Miles! 5-Speed, CD, All Power,
Immaculate Condition! (P9631) **\$12,988 847-231-2559**



scan to see all
of our inventory

MAZDA 2010 CX-7,
Heated Seats, Moonroof, Bluetooth, CD, Alloys!
Nicely Loaded! (V4417A) **\$13,488 847-231-2559**



scan to see all
of our inventory

MAZDA 2010 CX-9 AWD, Only 46K Miles! Heated Leather,
Navigation, Moonroof, Bluetooth, 3rd Row Seat, & Alloys!
(V4397A) **\$22,987 847-231-2559**



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of our inventory

HONDA 2009 CR-V EXL AWD,
59K Miles! Heated Leather, 6-Disc CD, Moonroof, Alloys!
(P9552) **\$18,748 847-231-2559**



scan to see all
of our inventory

BMW 2002 328xi,
Auto, Heated Leather, Moonroof, CD, Alloys, Mint Condition!
(V4427A) **\$6,995 847-231-2559**



scan to see all
of our inventory

VW 2006 JETTA TDI,
Only 80K Miles! Heated Leather, Moonroof, CD, Alloys,
Power Loaded! Extra Nice! (714379A) **\$12,963 866-503-8017**



scan to see all
of our inventory

SUBARU 2009 IMPREZA 2.5i SPORT WAGON,
Only 44K Miles! CD, Traction, Keyless Entry! (714304A)
\$14,351 866-503-8017



scan to see all
of our inventory

MAZDA 2005 TRIBUTE i,
Wow Only 38K Miles! Full Power, CD, A/C, Alloys!
Mint Condition! (M14333A) **\$12,995 847-264-4283**



scan to see all
of our inventory

HONDA 2007 CRV EX,
All Power Options, CD, Traction, Keyless Entry! Alloys!
(P9650) **\$11,990 847-264-4283**



scan to see all
of our inventory

SUBARU 2013 LEGACY AWD PREMIUM,
30K Miles! Heated Seats, Full Power, CD, Bluetooth, & Alloys!
(P9600) **\$19,995 847-264-4283**



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of our inventory

CHEVY 2007 TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4, Low Miles! Power
Leather, CD, Dual Temperature Control, Alloys! Immaculate
Condition! (P9485) **\$9,995 847-264-4283**



scan to see all
of our inventory

MAZDA 2012 MAZDA6,
41K Miles! Auto, Full Power, Bluetooth, CD, Alloys!
Save Lots From New! (P9576) **\$14,490 847-264-4283**



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of our inventory

HONDA 2009 CR-V EXL AWD,
59K Miles! Heated Leather, 6-Disc CD, Moonroof, Alloys!
(P9552) **\$18,748 847-231-2559**



scan to see all
of our inventory

MAZDA 2010 CX-7,
Heated Seats, Moonroof, Bluetooth, CD, Alloys!
Nicely Loaded! (V4417A) **\$13,488 847-231-2559**



scan to see all
of our inventory

SUBARU 2009 IMPREZA 2.5i SPORT WAGON,
Only 44K Miles! CD, Traction, Keyless Entry! (714304A)
\$14,351 866-503-8017



scan to see all
of our inventory

CHEVY 2009 MALIBU LT,
Heated Leather, Full Power, Traction, Bluetooth, & Alloys!
(E38959) **\$14,995 877-709-8856**



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of our inventory

FORD 2004 EXPLORER LIMITED 4WD,
Heated Memory Seats, Moonroof, Rear Entertainment,
3rd Row, Alloys, & Step Up! (E3937A) **\$7,995 877-709-8856**



scan to see all
of our inventory

FORD 2007 FOCUS SES,
54K Miles! Auto, All Power Options, CD, Alloys!
Great Budget Buy! (Y1535A) **\$8,800 877-709-8856**



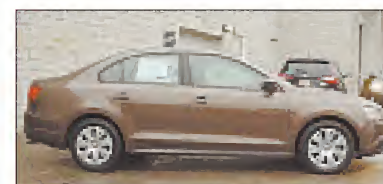
scan to see all
of our inventory

FORD 2012 FOCUS SEL,
42K Miles! Auto, Full Power, CD, Bluetooth, Alloys! A Real
Money Saver On Gas! (Y1585) **\$13,995 877-709-8856**



scan to see all
of our inventory

HYUNDAI 2011 SONATA GLS,
Moonroof, Full Power, Bluetooth, CD, Alloys! Super Nice!
(E4479A) **\$12,999 877-709-8856**



scan to see all
of our inventory

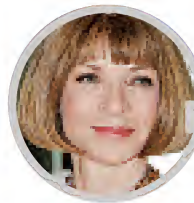
VW 2011 JETTA S,
39K Miles! All Power Options, CD/MP3, Traction, Alloys!
Great Price! (Y1589) **\$13,995 877-709-8856**

who **TOTALLY WICKED**



Michelle Obama

Although it's really a tossup as to which of these two has more power.



Anna Wintour



Hillary Clinton

As if.

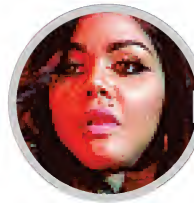


Michele Bachmann



Gina Carano

Have you SEEN Lil Kim's face lately?



Lil Kim



Queen Latifah

JWoww cannot move nearly quickly enough.



JWoww

Michelle Obama

Ooooo, don't tell the president we said this.

Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton

If only because Hillary still has the nuclear codes.



Hillary Clinton

WINNER

AMERICA

If Angelina can deal with being the VP in this situation, we've got a perfect political match-up for 2016.

Angelina Jolie



FORGET 'MALEFICENT'—THESE LADIES ARE BADASS IN REAL LIFE

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Keep your finger away from that spindle, Elle Fanning! The first trailer for Disney's "Maleficent," aka "Sleeping Beauty" from the evil witch's perspective, debuted this week with a thundering cackle. And as we'd guessed all along, Angelina Jolie is perfect in the lead role. But would she win in a knock-down, drag-out fight against these other famous ladies we wouldn't want to mess with?

There's only one way to find out—bracket-style. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA

Angelina Jolie

Really, no contest.

Angelina Jolie



Chloe Sevigny



Jenny from the Block



This is a CLOSE one. Remember how "from the block" J.Lo used to be?

Michelle Rodriguez

Michelle Rodriguez



Grace Jones



Unfortunately, Grace has slowed with age.

Alexis Krauss

Alexis Krauss of Sleigh Bells



She has a burn book. Alexis does not.

Suri Cruise

Suri Cruise



Suri has the power of Tom Cruise on her side.

Suri Cruise

Ellen DeGeneres



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS



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red hot

YOU HURL, GIRL

Because he got high

Shia LaBeouf is nothing if not a method actor—but this time, he appears to have used the wrong method. LaBeouf admitted to **vulture.com** that he dropped acid in preparation for his “Charlie Countryman” role, out Friday. The problem? “In the script, it’s Carpathian ecstasy,” director Fredrik Bond said. Ruh roh, Scooby.

Sexiest voice alive?

It’s that most wonderful time of year again, ladies and gents. No, not the time when Christmas music comes on the radio WAYYYYY too early. The magical hours when People magazine names its sexiest man alive. The hot rumor from **eonline.com** is that “The Voice” coach and Maroon 5 singer Adam Levine will take this year’s crown. We’ve seen the shirtless pics. We’ve seen the tats. We’d be cool with this.

Jennifer Lawrence
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Jennifer Lawrence almost used throwing up as her pick-up line for Justin Timberlake. No, really. The “Hunger Games: Catching Fire” star told AOL Moviefone that she almost barfed when she saw the ‘NSyncer backstage at an event. Co-star Josh Hutcherson said he still hasn’t met the J. Timbs, but would love to get some face time. Just leave Jen at home.

THE QUOTE
Of course I still play the congas naked, I just close the windows.”

—Matthew McConaughey, to GQ magazine, referencing a widely discussed 1999 incident. He was named the mag’s man of the year, and appears on the cover of the December issue. However, he is not naked in the photo.

HOT DATE
Aug. 26

That’s when Arcade Fire will hit the United Center for their Reflektor tour. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Nov. 22 on **livenation.com**.

KING OF THE DINOS

Somebody alert Dr. Ian Malcolm! The Wrap reports that “Parks and Recreation” star **Chris Pratt** is in talks for the lead in “Jurassic World.” Bryce Dallas Howard already is attached to the project, and Idris Elba is rumored to be joining as well. Which, just, yes.

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Jonathan Toews
Patrick Kane

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